

Message Text

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S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 0965

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJ: LETTER FROM PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO TO PRESIDENT NIXON

1. FOREIGN SECRETARY AGHA SHAHI ASKED THAT I COME SEE HIM THIS MORNING, AND FIRST ITEM OF BUSINESS WAS TO GIVE ME COPY OF A LETTER TO OUR PRESIDENT FROM BHUTTO. BHUTTO HAD PREVIOUSLY TOLD ME THAT HE WAS WRITING SUCH A LETTER AND WOULD GIVE ME COPY. SHAHI SAID LETTER HAD BEEN POUCHED AND TELEGRAPHED TO THEIR EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. HE SAID PRIME MINISTER, HOWEVER, ASKED THAT I TRANSMIT IT ALSO.

2. IN SUMMARY, IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE LETTER TAKES NOTE OF CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE WE ARE PLAYING IN THE MIDDLE EAST, EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER CURRENT WORLD-WIDE OIL CRISES AND CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE PAKISTAN IS TRYING TO PLAY WITH OIL PRODUCING STATES. MOST IMPORTANT PART OF LETTER SEEMS TO BE INTENTION OF PAKISTAN TO ENDEAVOR INSURE THAT OIL PROBLEM CAN BE SUBJECT OF CONSTRUCTIVE CONSULTATION AMONG PARTIES IN THE UP-COMING ISLAMIC CONFERENCE, ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT TO BE AN AGENDA ITEM. TEXT FOLLOWS:

3. QUOTE. "PRIME MINISTER'S HOUSE, RAWALPINDI, 25 JANUARY 1974, DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: THE AGREEMENT ON DIS-ENGAGEMENT OF FORCES ON THE SUEZ FRONT MAY PROVE TO BE A BREAKTHROUGH IN THE PROCESS OF EVOLVING A DEFINITIVE

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SETTLEMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT. THE PEOPLE OF

THE UNITED STATES CAN RIGHTLY BE PROUD OF THE CONSTRUCTIVE
ROLE WHICH IS NOW BEING PLAYED BY THEIR GOVERNMENT UNDER
YOUR LEADERSHIP AND WHICH IS EVIDENCED IN THIS SOLID
ACHIEVEMENT.

4. "THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT WITH ITS FAR-REACHING
RAMIFICATIONS HAS DISTURBED ALL THOSE WHO HAVE TRADI-
TIONALLY LOOKED UPON THE UNITED STATES AS A POWERFUL
FORCE FOR EQUILIBRIUM. PAKISTAN, WHICH HAS A HISTORY
OF GOOD RELATIONS WITH BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND THE
ARAB WORLD, CANNOT BUT FEEL DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER THE
SITUATION.

5. "RECENTLY, I DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH SHAIKH ZAYED,
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, AND RULER OF ABU
DHABI WHO IS PRESENTLY IN PAKISTAN. WE EXCHANGED VIEWS
ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE USE OF OIL AS A POLITICAL
WEAPON. I EXPRESSED THE FEAR THAT CUT-BACKS IN PRO-
DUCTION COUPLED WITH ABRUPT INCREASES IN OIL PRICES
COULD PLUNGE THE WHOLE WORLD INTO AN UNPRECEDENTED ECONO-
MIC CRISIS FROM WHICH THE OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES THEM-
SELVES WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ESCAPE.

6. "I AM GLAD TO SAY THAT SHAIKH ZAYED SHOWED AN
APPRECIATION OF THE GRAVITY OF THE PROBLEM. HE URGED ME
TO UTILIZE PAKISTAN'S CLOSE RELATIONS WITH BOTH THE UNITED
STATES AND THE ARAB WORLD TOWARDS PROMOTING GREATER UNDER-
STANDING BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. WHEN I POINTED OUT THAT
THERE ARE DIRECT CONTACTS AND CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN
THEM, SHAIKH ZAYED SAID THAT THESE COULD BE USEFULLY
SUPPLEMENTED AND HE, ON HIS PART, COULD USE HIS INFLUENCE
WITH THE OTHER ARAB STATES OF THE PERSIAN GULF TO SUPPORT
MY EFFORTS.

7. "I AM WRITING THIS LETTER TO YOU BECAUSE I BELIEVE
THAT THE APPARENTLY CONFLICTING INTERESTS OF THE OIL-
PRODUCING NATIONS AND THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES OR,
FOR THAT MATTER, THE REST OF THE WORLD, ARE NOT
IRRECONCILABLE. THE PRESENT ENERGY CRISIS WHICH HAS BEEN
LONG IN THE MAKING, IS ESSENTIALLY DUE TO THE OPERATION
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OF MARKET FORCES; THE POLITICAL DIMENSION IT HAS ACQUIRED
AS A RESULT OF THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT IS ADVENTITIOUS
AND TRANSITORY. IT IS MY HOPE THAT THE CONFLICTING
VIEWPOINTS WILL BE RESOLVED BY DISCUSSION AND COMPROMISE
THROUGH CONSTRUCTIVE INITIATIVES. YOUR GOVERNMENT'S
ASSURANCE THAT IT IS NOT THE AIM OF THE UNITED STATES
TO CREATE AN EXCLUSIVE ORGANIZATION OF OIL CONSUMERS
SHOULD BE WELCOME TO THE OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES.

8. " I HAVE NOTED, WITH APPRECIATION, YOUR CONCERN FOR THE INTERESTS OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD AND AM CONFIDENT THAT THE CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN AT YOUR INSTANCE WILL FULLY TAKE THEM INTO ACCOUNT.

9. "THE SUMMIT MEETING OF ISLAMIC COUNTRIES IN PAKISTAN NEXT MONTH WILL BE TAKING PLACE IN A POLITICAL CLIMATE MADE MORE PROPITIOUS BY THE AGREEMENT ON DISENGAGEMENT OF EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI FORCES. IT MAY PROVIDE A VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY TO PREPARE THE GROUND FOR TAKING POSITIVE STEPS TOWARDS AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON THE OIL PROBLEM. THE CONFERENCE WILL, OF COURSE, BE CONCERNED PRIMARILY WITH THE POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AMONG OTHER MATTERS. HOWEVER, AS THE EVENT WILL BRING TOGETHER THE LEADERS OF MOST OF THE MAJOR OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES, IT IS NOT UNLIKELY THAT OCCASIONS WILL PRESENT THEMSELVES FOR AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND CRYSTALLIZATION OF THINKING ON THE ENERGY CRISIS.

10. "WE ARE UNDERTAKING PRELIMINARY CONSULTATIONS WITH SOME OF OUR FRIENDS AMONG THE OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES TO EXPLORE AVENUES FOR A CONSTRUCTIVE MULTILATERAL APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM. I DO NOT EXPECT THAT THE ISLAMIC SUMMIT WILL BE ABLE TO SPELL OUT ANY PRECISE OR DETAILED FORMULA FOR ITS SOLUTION, BUT I CERTAINLY HOPE THAT IT WILL IMPART IMPETUS AND URGENCY TO EFFORTS TO PROMOTE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE OIL-PRODUCING AND CONSUMING COUNTRIES. YOURS SINCERELY, ZULFIKAR ALI BHUTTO" UNQUOTE.
BYROADE

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